

Circ.: e. 53,258

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

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Problems Facing the Nation

The voters solved a major problem when they called for a new leader in the office of president, but there are many other big problems facing the nation. They would have existed regardless of who became chief executive, but their solution would have been less apt to happen if there had been no change at Washington.

For any citizen to feel that the change means the way ahead is free from huge obstacles would be about the most stupid sentiment imaginable. Problems are facing us, and their solution needs the interest of the citizens generally.

Co-operation will help greatly in meeting these problems, and it's gratifying to know that President-elect Eisenhower is manifesting the spirit required for encouraging unity. This he is doing by having representatives sit in on budget and other conferences of the retiring administration, and accepting invitation himself to meet with President Truman for discussion and consideration of the transfer of power and responsibility.

Naturally, General Eisenhower will not make commitments nor have his representatives do anything of that kind while with those whose regime has been rejected. But as listeners they can secure impressions that may be useful in facing the problems of the new administration.

The presidential campaigning was bitter and at times very impassioned. Nearing the close of the battle for votes the campaigning drove from the main headlines many news stories of long-pull importance, and, to a degree, diverted public attention from developments of top significance to the entire world. The "cold war" and the status of the real war in Korea failed at times to get the prominence they merited—the Korean situation, however, was drawn into the campaigning as one of General Eisenhower's key blows. His promise to visit Korea promptly was a big vote-getting stroke. That visit should help in efforts for solving mighty important problems, including smashing the tragic stalemate and saving American lives.

Certain things seem to be self-evident. First, the idea which was hopefully held some time ago in this country, that the Soviet Union wished to come to some sort of reasonable

terms with the United States, no longer has credence. It is clear that the only terms in which the Politburo is interested are those which would work 100 per cent to Russia's advantage.

Current Soviet strategy clearly has as its basic aim the splitting of the Western powers, to be followed ultimately by the isolation of the U.S. This certainly isn't a new technique, but the work is being intensified. Soviet officials are being very polite these days to certain of the Western nations—particularly those in which there are substantial anti-American blocs, and in which the governments are something less than stalwart in their allegiances. The officials are trying hard to sell the idea that Russia has no designs on these nations, and wants to be friends.

Also, Russia is going all out to strengthen and harden her agents and sympathizers in the Western countries, with special emphasis on the U.S. The American Communist party has in large part gone underground. It is reported that membership requirements have been greatly stiffened—no weak sisters are wanted. It is also reported that Russia's system of schooling her foreign agents is really in high gear.

The problem of curbing activity of Communists in our government is more crucial than ever. The testimony of General Walter Bedell Smith, head of our top intelligence agency, in this regard was most revealing. General Smith, an extremely able officer who was Eisenhower's Chief of Staff during World War II and afterwards Ambassador to Russia, said that communists had wormed their way into important places in his agency and elsewhere. Also revealing is the charge of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee that American communists have gained key positions in the United Nations Secretariat.

Last, but certainly not least, it is clear that we are as far from a Korean truce as ever, and that the Kremlin will do everything possible to keep it going and to force us to spend material and manpower there in an endless stream.

The campaign is over, the voters have made the decision. But some great problems confronting the American government and the chosen representatives of the American people remain.